

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Figures 1 and 4 are corrected, the Abstract is replaced with a substitute Abstract and claim 1 is amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative at the December 15 personal interview. The substance of the discussions held are incorporated into the following remarks.

**I. The Drawings Satisfy All Formal Requirements**

The Office Action objects to the figures. Figures 1 and 4 are amended to obviate this objection.

**II. The Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements**

Figure 1 is corrected to obviate the objection to the specification. The Abstract is replaced with a substitute Abstract to correct informalities.

**III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over USP 5,200,631 to Austin et al. and claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Austin in view of USP 5,796,714 to Chino et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Austin does not disclose a plurality of optical signal transmission areas wherein clads are provided at boundaries of the plurality of optical signal areas as in the invention of independent claim 1. See e.g., specification at page 15, lines 1-9. By providing a layer which functions as a clad, the invention of claim 1 prevents the generation of crosstalks.

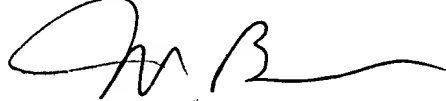
Chino does not provide the deficiencies of Austin.

**IV. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Michael Britton  
Registration No. 47,260

JAO:MB/jfb

Attachments:

Substitute Abstract  
Replacement Sheets (Figs. 1 and 4)

Date: December 19, 2003

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--